

TAFT A CANDIDATE
TO STAY IN RACE

"Nothing but Death Can Keep
Me Out of the Fight Now,"
He Says, Setting Rumors
at Rest.

REASSURES HIS FRIENDS

President Does Not Believe
Roosevelt Ever Said Health
Might Cause His With-
drawal—Makes Own
Position Clear.

[From The Tribune Bureau.]

Washington, Jan. 3.—President Taft took occasion to-day to relieve the minds of many of his friends who may have been anxious lest he should be wavering in his intention to remain a candidate for re-nomination. The President made it perfectly clear that he was in the fight to stay and that there was no ground for apprehension that his health or that of any member of his family would make it necessary for him to withdraw from the race.

"Nothing but death can keep me out of the fight now," the President is quoted as having said to one of his callers.

President Taft has no idea whatever that ex-President Roosevelt ever gave the interview credited to him, in which he was made to say that possibly the health of the President or that of some member of his family would lead to Mr. Taft's withdrawing from the race. Mr. Taft believes that Colonel Roosevelt is far too manly to have said anything of the kind. Nevertheless, in view of the fact that Colonel Roosevelt has deemed it wise not to deny the interview, Mr. Taft has thought it only fair to his friends to make his own position perfectly clear.

It was not until some of the party leaders went to the President and told him that such a suggestion, credited to Colonel Roosevelt and undenied in any quarter, might do harm, and would almost inevitably tend to discourage some of the Taft workers, that Mr. Taft consented to say anything at all, except that he did not for a moment believe the authenticity of the alleged interview.

"Quoting Roosevelt" Overdone.

"Quoting Roosevelt" has, in fact, come to be the approved method of starting political gossip in Washington, and were it not that many of those who seek to lend undue importance to their own words by attributing them to the ex-President seriously overplay the game there might be much deep indignation toward Mr. Roosevelt on the part of those friendly to the President. But many do overplay their hands and make it patent by the words they attribute to Mr. Roosevelt that not only are they misquoting him but that they do not even know him well enough to be familiar with his peculiarities of speech. If the ex-President could know all the men who pretend to quote him, who assert that they have spent half the night with him discussing his political future, and who make categorical assertions of what he has told them, he would immediately have to make additions to the Ananias Club which would more than double its capacity.

For instance, one prominent member of the Republican National Committee came to the meeting in Washington and solemnly asserted that he had spent the greater part of a night with Mr. Roosevelt, that Mr. Roosevelt had told him that under no circumstances would he take himself out of the Presidential equation, and that it was more than possible that he would be a candidate for the nomination before the national convention.

Then came another member of the national committee who asserted that he had enjoyed an equally long conference with the ex-President, who had replied repeatedly to the suggestion that the convention was likely to nominate him whether or no with the words "they better not," and had finally said: "Well, if they do, they will merely have to meet again and nominate some one else, for I won't take it."

Of course, the probabilities are that Mr. Roosevelt did not make any of these statements attributed to him, but that each member of the committee went to see him imbued with an idea of where he stood, that he made some such suggestion to Mr. Roosevelt, and that because he did not care to deny it the committee came away persuaded that the ex-President had said just what he had expected him to say.

No Message to Oyster Bay Probable.

The suggestion has been made that President Taft might follow the course which Mr. Roosevelt pursued with Senator Hanna in 1904 and send some message to Oyster Bay to the effect that "he who is not with me is against me." There is not, however, the slightest probability that President Taft will do anything of the kind, particularly at this time.

The famous Roosevelt-Hanna message was sent just on the eve of the Ohio state convention, when the time had come that a declaration from Mr. Hanna was of the utmost importance. Now, however, as was pointed out in these dispatches this morning, the talk of the possible nomination of Mr. Roosevelt is proving most useful to Mr. Taft, for it is ridding the Republican party of all sporadic and parasitic growths. That of itself would be quite sufficient to prevent Mr. Taft taking such a step as Mr. Roosevelt took in the spring of 1904.

There, too, there are intimate friends of both Mr. Taft and Mr. Roosevelt who are confident that in due time Mr. Roosevelt will show that he is free from any hostility to Mr. Taft, and their influence will be exerted to prevent any step on either side which would make a reconciliation between these two statesmen an impossibility.

It is known that Colonel Roosevelt has

Breaking Into Society

is a subject that interests more people than one might suspect. A clever, satirical article with this title, by AN OLDTIMER, will appear in the next Sunday Magazine of the

New-York Tribune

ASSASSINATION REPORTED

Sheket Pacha, General of Young Turks, Believed Killed.

London, Jan. 4.—Dispatches reached here to-night reporting the assassination of Mahmoud Sheket Pacha, the former Turkish Minister of War and commander of the constitutional army which forced the surrender of Abdul Hamid.

There are rumors also of a rising in Constantinople, but dispatches received direct from that city late to-night make no mention of such occurrences in the capital.

CARDINALS IN DANGER

American Prelates Sleep in Hotel While Fire Rages Close By.

Naples, Jan. 3.—A fire occurred early this morning in a lumber yard adjoining the Bertolini Hotel, in which Cardinals Farley and O'Connell are staying. For a time it seemed as if the hotel was in danger of catching fire, but the American cardinals knew nothing of the occurrence, as they slept throughout the excitement.

Some of the published accounts of the incident say that the cardinals made their escape half dressed, but in reality they did not learn of the fire until later in the day.

SAVE TWO MEN IN A BOAT

Searching Party Finds Them Frozen and Unconscious.

Marooned for hours in the marsh lands adjacent to Jamaica Bay and exposed to the bitter cold of a winter's night in an open boat, John Peterkin, of Avenue M and East 64th street, and William Greder, of Avenue M and East 63d street, Flatbush, were unconscious and almost frozen to death yesterday when found by a searching party.

The two men had set out on a fishing trip Tuesday morning in the motor boat "Pittie," and had gone to the fishing grounds off Rockaway Point. They started for home late in the afternoon, and while going through a creek off Jamaica Bay the propeller of the boat struck a submerged log and was broken. Peterkin and Greder tried to repair it, but were unable to do so. They had no cars and drifted helplessly with the tide.

All through the night the men floated about in the bay. They tried to keep warm by swinging their arms, but drowsiness finally overcame them and they lay down in the bottom of the boat.

Joseph Greder, a brother of William, organized a searching party yesterday morning, and after running up and down several inlets they came across the "Pittie," drifting aimlessly about in the current.

MORDKIN TO QUIT OPERA

Russian Dancer Will Go to Winter Garden on January 15.

Mikhail Mordkin, the Russian dancer, will not appear with the Imperial Russian Ballet after January 15. He then goes to the Winter Garden to dance with his wife and with Miss Lopokowa. Max Rabinoff, the manager of the Russian Ballet, said last night that he had transferred Mordkin's contract to the Shuberts. Mordkin's place in the ballet will be taken by Mr. Volinine when the organization goes on tour.

Mr. Mordkin, when seen last night, appeared anything but pleased with his engagement with the Russian Ballet. "I am through with Mr. Rabinoff," he said, "though I am perfectly friendly with Mr. Gatti-Casazza, and shall continue to dance at the Metropolitan. After January 15, however, I go to the Winter Garden. I am sick of the whole business, and I am glad to get out of the ballet."

Mr. Rabinoff said: "Mordkin will dance at the Metropolitan as per schedule, and afterward goes to the Winter Garden. I have transferred his contract to the Shuberts, and Mr. Volinine will take his place when we go on tour."

Mr. Mordkin's troubles have been many. His quarrel with Miss Anna Pavlova is now well known, and was probably one of the reasons why Miss Pavlova did not come to America this season. Mordkin was operated on for appendicitis in October, which kept him out of the Russian Ballet for several months.

NOBLEMAN IN AUTO SMASH

Prince D'Aragnon's Car Hits Tree with Disastrous Result.

Prince Pignatelli D'Aragnon, who is said to be a cousin of the King of Spain, and is staying at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel, 60th street and Madison avenue, was injured late yesterday afternoon when his sixty-horsepower touring car, which he was operating, crashed into a tree in the east drive of Central Park. The machine was smashed and he and his chauffeur, Paul Maurand, were thrown to the roadway. Prince D'Aragnon was bruised on the forehead and was taken to his hotel in a taxicab, after being attended by an ambulance surgeon. The chauffeur was not hurt.

"I was going up the east drive of Central Park and was opposite 87th street, in the middle of the roadway, when the steering gear of the machine swerved and the car smashed into a tree," the prince said over the telephone last night. Patrolman Gough, of the Arsenal police station, was in the vicinity when the accident occurred, and he assisted the prince and his chauffeur to their feet.

FLIRTATION COSTS \$5,000

It will cost Charles P. Warth just \$5,000 for his flirtation with Miss Elsa Gutfreund on the Boardwalk at Atlantic City. The young woman sued Warth in the Supreme Court for \$50,000 for breach of promise. The defendant admitted the flirtation, but denied that he ever promised to marry Miss Gutfreund.

TRAVELS 5,800 MILES
WITH BROKEN BACK

Man Badly Injured in Trolley Accident Keeps Wife in Ignorance.

ASKED HER TO MEET HIM

Passengers on the Verdi Tell of Strange Fate That Befell Engineer of Rio Light and Power Company.

Among the early visitors to the Lampport & Holt Line pier, in Brooklyn, yesterday was Mrs. Harry Focht, of Cleveland, whose husband was a passenger on the steamship Verdi, in from Buenos Ayres and Rio de Janeiro.

She received a wireless message from him several days ago saying that he was returning on the Verdi. He asked that she come to New York before January 3, stating that he would join her at her hotel.

The young woman arrived from Cleveland on Tuesday, and was on the pier yesterday long before the Verdi left Quarantine. When the vessel came within several hundred yards of the dock Mrs. Focht looked anxiously for her husband. Persons standing near her were able to distinguish friends and relatives on board, but the young woman from Cleveland was unable to see her husband.

"I should think he would be on deck," she remarked to a woman beside her. "Of course, he may have forgotten his overcoat in Rio and does not wish to come out in the cold air."

When the Verdi touched the bulkhead Dr. Bradley, the ship's surgeon, leaned over the rail and asked a friend ashore to see if there was a Mrs. Focht on the pier. Presently the young woman was informed that her husband was ill on board, and she became hysterical. As soon as the gangplank was put up Mrs. Focht was led to a stateroom adjoining that of the surgeon, where she found her husband lying helpless upon a cot.

His spine had been broken a month ago in a trolley accident in Rio. Although anxious to have her meet him, the young man preferred to keep his wife in ignorance of his condition during the twenty-day journey of five thousand miles from Rio.

Focht went to Brazil six months ago as engineer in the employ of the Rio Light and Power Company. His wife was to have joined him on the next outbound voyage of the ship that brought him home yesterday.

Mrs. Focht, who had never before been to New York, planned to have her husband show her the city on his return yesterday.

The injured man, who is twenty-seven years old, was taken to Cleveland last night over the New York Central in the care of the Verdi's surgeon, his employees providing him with every comfort.

According to some of the travellers from Rio, Focht was injured in a strange manner. A child, it is said, had been run over by a trolley car and killed. The motorman became frightened after the child's body was removed from the tracks and drove his car away at high speed. When away from the scene of the accident he jumped from the car and fled. The wild car later overhauled the one ahead of it and struck it with terrific force, injuring Focht, who was one of the passengers.

On his arrival in Cleveland Focht will have travelled about 5,800 miles.

SHOES TO ADVANCE LITTLE

Brockton Makers Say 15 Cents a Pair May Be Increase.

[By Telegraph to The Tribune.]
Brockton, Mass., Jan. 3.—Charging that politicians and Western shoe manufacturers are back of statements issued recently to the effect that shoes made in the so-called Brockton district were to be advanced 50 cents a pair, and that makers were in a combination, to advance prices, members of the Brockton Shoe Manufacturers' Association to-day vigorously denied the rumors. They assured the public that the increase in the price to the consumer will not be more than 15 cents a pair. That, they say, is due to the increased cost of raw material and labor.

John S. Kent, president of the association, said to-day that the price must advance, but not to any such ridiculous figure as had been quoted in New York dispatches.

HAD "JOY RIDE" IN ENGINE

Arrest Followed Collision with Norwich Boat Train.

Webster, Mass., Jan. 3.—A locomotive joy ride is said by New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad officials to have caused a head-on collision to-night with the Norwich Line boat train, running between Worcester and New London. Eleven passengers were injured. Ralph I. Jardine, a Worcester clear maker, who is said to have been at the throttle of the wild engine, was arrested.

The passengers on the boat train received a bad fright and shock. All proceeded on another train.

While the engine was standing without an occupant in the railroad yard at Worcester, Jardine is said to have climbed aboard and was wild to light this city, where the collision occurred. Both engines were wrecked. Flying coals set fire to the express car of the boat train and the local department extinguished the blaze.

BRONCO BUCKS BOLD BANDIT

Dishwasher Holds Up Bank Cashier, but Is Foiled by Baiting Horse.

Tulsa, Okla., Jan. 3.—Walking into the bank of Bixby, a small town fifteen miles southeast of Tulsa, a man at the point of a gun held up the cashier to-day, obtained \$700, rushed out of the bank and mounted a horse, which, however, was a Texas bronco and commenced to "insult" the cashier. The cashier, who was a crowd man, was pulled from his horse by a crowd that had congregated. He was found to be C. C. Brock, dishwasher in a Bixby restaurant, and was placed in the Tulsa jail.

STRIKERS PULL DRIVERS
OFF LAUNDRY WAGONS

Violence Appears in Latest Labor Struggle—Spreads to Brooklyn and Jersey City.

NUMBER OUT PUT AT 32,000

Leaders Say All Manhattan Will Be Tied Up To-day—Employers Call Demands Out of Question.

Violence appeared yesterday in the strike of the laundry workers, but whereas a new driver here and there or an old one who had not quit work was pulled off the seat of his wagon, yet it seems that nobody was badly hurt.

The other feature of the new labor struggle yesterday was its spreading to Brooklyn and Jersey City. The leaders declared it would extend its limits still further to-day and placed the number of workers who had left their jobs as high as 32,000.

An attack was made by a mob of strikers or sympathizers on John Schwartz, a strike breaker, who was driving a delivery wagon for John M. Heath, the owner of about a dozen laundries in Harlem, while he was in front of the strike headquarters, at No. 2375 Eighth avenue. Just as he whipped up the horses to escape several men succeeded in climbing on the shafts, and he was pulled off, out a policeman appeared before the mob could proceed further with its aim, and rescued him, little the worse for his experience. The policeman then saw him safe at the laundry from which he had come, in West 136th street.

Another wagon was attacked in West 44th street, near the Elks Club. Several cases occurred in other parts of the city, where drivers were attacked and pulled off their wagons, but were rescued before anything serious happened to them.

Says Workers Are Quitting Fast.

William Armour, president of Laundry Workers' Union No. 126, who is the principal strike leader, said that the members of Locals No. 34 and No. 37, of the laundries, were quitting work as fast as they could finish their jobs in hand.

"We do not have to ask them to quit," he said, "and by to-morrow there will be few laundries, if any, in Brooklyn which will not be tied up, as in Jersey City, besides our own district. We ask only what is the due of the laundry workers and no more, and this is going to be a bigger strike than even we expected. All of Manhattan will be tied up to-morrow."

It was stated by some of the employees last night that as a result of the attack on the driver of the wagon of the Heath Laundry the association had applied to Police Commissioner Waldo for police protection, and afterward many of the laundry wagons in the upper part of the city in consequence had a policeman sitting beside the driver. Policemen were also stationed at some of the laundries.

The State Board of Arbitration, through Colonel Michael Reagan, chief mediator, and John J. Bealin, chief of the New York branch of the board, called on the leaders of the strike yesterday at their headquarters and also on the members of the Steam Laundrymen's Association at a meeting in the Bernheimer Building, 116th street and Lenox avenue, with a view to a settlement of the strike.

Hand Laundrymen Perturbed.

The meeting of the Steam Laundrymen's Association at the Bernheimer Building was to start at 10 a. m., but it was the middle of the afternoon before it got under way. The delay was caused partly by the frequent arrival of delegations from the smaller hand laundry firms, the proprietors of which held they were the victims of circumstances and were suffering in a cause in which they had no part. When an invasion of the hand laundrymen took place the meeting was generally on the point of starting, and by the time any conference with them was over some of the members of the association had gone, but the meeting was finally held and the arbitrators were admitted and succeeded in getting the employers to agree to a conference with a committee of the union, which will be held at 10 a. m. to-day in the Fourth avenue building.

The Steam Laundrymen's Association appointed Benjamin Schneider, of the Nonpareil Laundry; J. Alexander, of the Howard Laundry; Louis Loewenstein, of the Central Steam Laundry; and Morris Robinson, of the Brunswick Laundry, to meet the representatives of the State Board of Arbitration and the committee of the union at the Fourth Avenue Building to-day, with President Julius Langfelder as an ex-officio member of the committee of which Mr. Loewenstein is chairman. Mr. Langfelder said when seen later that he was very doubtful as to the chances of a settlement.

"We voted unanimously not to recognize the demands unless they not to recognize the demands," he continued. "They are out of the question as they stand at present. The association will meet late in the afternoon to hear the report of the committee."

He said that two large steam laundries had shut down in Brooklyn rather than agree to the demands.

Strike Leaders' Committee.

The strike leaders appointed a committee, consisting of William Armour, No. 126; W. H. Hyman, John Might and Joseph Waters, to meet the employers. The strike leaders said they would send a committee of any kind and would simply hear what was to be said.

Brooklyn estimated that at least eight thousand workers on that side of the river were out. The first signs of a strike were there were noticed in the Greenpoint section, where there are several large laundries. The number grew rapidly, and it was said by one of the leaders of the strikers last night that fully 60 per cent of the laundries in Brooklyn would be tied up by to-day.

In Williamsburg it was not a case of "no ticks, no shirts," as the old Chinese expression goes, but "no workmen, no washing." Nearly two hundred men and women walked out of the Imperial Steam Laundry, at No. 940 Lorimer street, and Laundry, at No. 278 Greenpoint avenue, in sympathy with the New York strikers yesterday.

"READY FOR A FIGHT OR A FROLIC."



ADMIRAL ROBLEY D. EVANS.

Known and loved in the navy as "Fighting Bob," Evans, and his grandson, "Bob Evans" Sewell. Photograph taken just before the start of the battleship cruise. Copyright by Underwood & Underwood.

BRIDES \$100 TO \$500 EACH

Men of Russian Colony in California Buy Their Wives.

Los Angeles, Jan. 3.—Whether charges will be laid against members of the Molokane colony of Russian religious refugees here was the problem presented to-day to Juvenile Judge Wilbur, in the trial of Elsie Navikoff, charged with delinquency, who asserted that she ran away from home when her parents tried to force her into marriage with a man who paid them \$500 for her.

Philip Shubin, elder of the colony, admitted that marriages were performed without recognition of American laws. "We follow the customs of the old country," he said.

Emil Shubener testified that pretty Molokane girls brought from \$100 to \$500.

THIEF MAKES \$3,000 HAUL

Escapes After Pointing Gun at East Orange Resident.

[By Telegraph to The Tribune.]

East Orange, N. J., Jan. 3.—Caught in the act of ransacking a bureau on the second floor of John C. Cassidy's home, No. 123 Harrison street, this city, early this evening, a burglar pointed a gun at F. William Knolhoff, son-in-law of Mr. Cassidy, and while Knolhoff scurried downstairs in fright the burglar got away over the front porch with \$3,000 worth of jewelry belonging to Mrs. Sadie I. Powelson, daughter of Mr. Cassidy. Mr. Cassidy is head of the firm of Cassidy & Sons, gas fixture makers, of No. 133 West 23d street, New York.

The burglar woke the year-old baby of Knolhoff and in that way attracted, first Mrs. Knolhoff and then the father, to the second floor. Knolhoff told the police the thief was about thirty years old, of medium height and slight build. As nearly as he could remember, the man wore a low, fashionable derby, a buff colored suit of clothes and no overcoat. He had a small black mustache.

The Police Headquarters of every municipality in this section were informed as soon as possible.

The man was seen by the family to join a "pal" in front of the house, and the two ran toward Central avenue, apparently with the purpose of boarding a Central avenue car for Newark. "I was scared," said Knolhoff, "and saw that there was no chance for me, so I got downstairs as quickly as I could and told the others."

An investigation showed that the man had first visited Mrs. Powelson's room and taken her jewel case, containing a diamond sunburst, a diamond necklace and a number of diamond and pearl pins, all valued at \$3,000.

GAGS AND ROBS WOMAN

Masked Man Gets Away with Valuable Jewelry at Union Hill.

A robber bound and gagged a woman who was alone in a house in Union Hill, N. J., last evening, and then carried off three diamond rings, three valuable brooches and a bracelet. He has not been arrested, and the victim was Mrs. Sarah Halwick, who lives with her husband, Orlando Halwick, an insurance agent, on the second floor of a two-family house at No. 4684 Hudson Boulevard. Mrs. Halwick was unable to enter the dining room when she was confronted by a man wearing a mask.

"Don't make any outcry, old woman. I never hurt a woman yet, but if you call for help I'll kill you," he said. He then gagged her with two knotted handkerchiefs, robbed the house and got away.

A neighbor's boy, who had come to make a call on the Halwicks, found the victim in the kitchen unconscious and gave the alarm.

COAST LINE'S "FLORIDA SPECIAL"

Sold train to Palm Beach hotels; one night out; all steel electric lighted Pullmans; leaves 12 p. m.; superior roadway; Atlantic Coast Line, 1218 B'way—Advt.

DEATH CONQUERS
"FIGHTING BOB"

Rear Admiral Evans, Commander of World-Circling Battleship Fleet, Expires Suddenly in Washington.

WAS ILL ONLY TWO HOURS

Attack of Acute Indigestion Ends Picturesque Career—President Taft and Other Officials Express Great Sorrow—Funeral Friday.

Washington, Jan. 3.—Rear Admiral Robley D. Evans, known as "Fighting Bob" to an admiring nation, died suddenly late to-day at his home in this city. Acute indigestion ended the career of one of the most popular officers in the navy. He was ill a little more than two hours.

Admiral Evans, born sixty-five years ago in Floyd County, Va., arose to-day apparently in better health and spirits than he had enjoyed for some time. Long a sufferer from wounds received in the Civil War and from recurrent attacks of rheumatic gout, he seemed to have shaken off the burden of his advancing years. He displayed high spirits at breakfast and ate a hearty luncheon at noon.

The admiral was stricken while in his library at 2 o'clock. His family sent for Dr. S. S. Adams, who found the patient in great pain. After treatment Admiral Evans fell into a restless sleep, and it was thought that the danger had passed. Shortly after 4 o'clock, however, he woke, and, raising himself with difficulty, said he was choking.

"I cannot get my breath," he said, and sank back. He died at 4:45 o'clock, conscious to the last.

At this bedside were his wife, his daughter, Mrs. H. I. Sewall, and his daughter-in-law, Mrs. Frank T. Evans, wife of his only son, a lieutenant commander, now on duty on the destroyer Monaghan. The only other member of his immediate family who was not present was his daughter, Mrs. Marsh, wife of Captain Charles C. Marsh, commander of the armored cruiser North Carolina.

Mr. Taft Expresses Grief.
The news spread rapidly and caused great sorrow in official circles. President Taft was one of the first to express his grief.

"Admiral Evans was one of the most successful squadron commanders we have had in the navy for a long time," he said. "He was a rigid disciplinarian, of quick decision and admirably advised in the intricacy of the machinery of cruisers and battleships and skilled in drilling them. I am very sorry to hear of his death."

"I am shocked beyond measure at the sudden death of my lifelong friend, Admiral Evans," was all he could say.

"By the sudden death of Admiral Evans the country loses one of its most brilliant and able officers," Secretary Meyer said. "It was on account of his ability that President Roosevelt selected him as commander in chief of the fleet that cruised around the world. Although on the retired list, he had kept up his active interest in the service, and his unexpected death comes as a shock to the navy."

Ex-Secretary Metcalf, who happened to be in Washington to-day, said that he had given Admiral Evans the command of the Atlantic fleet in its cruise around the world, the choicest assignment ever given to an American naval officer in time of peace.

"He was practically an ill man when he was selected for this important duty," Mr. Metcalf said, "but his splendid record justified the department in giving him this recognition of his long and efficient service. He was one of the most efficient and capable officers the navy has known, and his name has been a household word for many years."

The funeral will be held on Friday, although the exact hour is not yet set, and it is expected that Admiral Evans will be buried in the National Cemetery, at Arlington, with full naval honors.

Admiral Evans was to the present generation the most popular and picturesque officer afloat under the American flag. "Fighting Bob," his sobriquet, was the keynote of his character. To that title, it is true, he objected. Braggadocho was foreign to his nature. Yet, however he would wish, "Fighting Bob" he was from first to last, even before he officially won the nickname in 1881 on board the Yorktown in Valparaiso harbor.

A Fighter from the First.

One incident of his school days in Washington, when he was ten years old, betrays the inherent fighting streak. He was sailing a toy boat in the school yard one morning when another boy, evidently not friendly to the future admiral's naval policy, smashed the vessel with a stone. Thereat little "Fighting Bob" picked up another stone and smashed him. The boy was taken home on a stretcher, and "Bob" changed schools under compulsion.

Eight years later found him an officer in Admiral Porter's fleet, charging, with sixty-two men, over twelve hundred feet of sand in front of Fort Fisher. A Confederate sharpshooter riddled his left leg. He tied his handkerchief over the wound and ran on. The sharpshooter put a ball through his right knee. As he fell the Confederate fired again, and took away part of his foot. Evans borrowed a musket and shot the sharpshooter through the head.

When they got the Yankee officer to the Norfolk hospital, after the battle, preparations were made to amputate both legs. Though weak from long torture, the fighting gleam came into his eyes at this juncture. When the surgeon appeared, ready for work Evans braces himself in bed on his elbow and drew a revolver from under his pillow. He announced that the pistol contained six cartridges, one apiece for the first six surgeons who tried to destroy his power of locomotion. He kept his legs, though he suffered from severe lameness the rest of his life.

He began using a gun down in his native Virginia mountains at the age of six. His father, Samuel Andrew Jackson Evans, a